

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 223520

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ORIGIN SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 H-02 /013 R

DRAFTED BY SCA/SCS/RMACKENBOM/CEH

APPROVED BY SCA/SCS/FESTEVENS

SCS/RAMCKENZIE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 223520

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:CASC,

SUBJECT:W/W FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

CONGRESSMAN JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY INTERESTED

1. CONGRESSMAN MOAKLEY'S OFFICE HAS CONTACTED DEPARTMENT REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN TRANSFERRING FUNDS TO LEBANESE NATIONALS THROUGH DAMASCUS. DEPARTMENT EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO ESTABLISH PRECEDENT IN USE OF SCS TRUST FUND PROCEDURES FOR ALIEN RECIPIENTS, ALTHOUGH CONGRESSMAN'S OFFICE AWARE THESE PROCEDURES EXIST AND INFORMS US THAT EMBASSY HAS ASSISTED IN WELFARE/WHEREABOUTS INQUIRIES ON LEBANESE NATIONALS UPON DIRECT TELEGRAPHIC REQUEST.

2. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO REPORT BEST METHOD(S) OF COMMERCIAL MONEY TRANSFER TO DAMASCUS, NAMING BANKS IN DAMASCUS WHICH CAN HANDLE TRANSFER EXPEDITIOUSLY AND CORRESPONDENT BANKS IN U.S. IF POSSIBLE, AND ESTIMATE TIME REQUIRED TO MAKE TRANSACTION.

, -, RTMENT APPRECIATES SPECIAL EFFORT POST IS MAKING TO ASSIST IN CRISIS SITUATION, BUT WISHES TO CAUTION POST AGAINST USING ITS LIMITED FACILITIES TO ASSIST ALIENS. AGAINST USING ITS LIMITED FACILITIES TO ASSIST ALIENS.

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PAGE 02 STATE 223520

REASONABLE EFFORT TO ASSIST ALIENS UPON REQUEST MAYBE JUSTI-

FIED UNDER UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES BUT INQUIRER SHOULD BE
CAUTIONED THAT POST CANNOT NORMALLY FOLLOW UP AND CANNOT
EXTENSIVELY USE ITS RESOURCES TO ASSIST THEM. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE223520
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SCS/RMACKENBOM/CEH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760341-0393
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760976/aaaacnef.tel
Line Count: 64
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <22 DEC 2004 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: W/W FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONGRESSMAN JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY INTERESTED
TAGS: CASC, SY
To: DAMASCUS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006